

Luis Fernandez

ENG 1010

Ben Fillmore

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War by Edwin Starr
(What is it good for?)

In the song War, interpreted superlatively and masterfully by Edwin Starr, it is clearly noted that he appeals to the sense of logic (Logos) of his audience, an audience that, by the way, was made up of "hippies", educators, religious, academic, journalists, lawyers, doctors, military veterans and also saw the participation of students, African Americans and of course the mothers and relatives of the soldiers could not miss, all that conglomerate of people Starr shows them the futility of war and does it strategically hardly at the beginning of the first paragraph: War, huh, yeah ... What is it good for? ... Absolutely nothing !. Definitely one of the best parts of the song and to which a fairly groove style is added, which gives it a very catchy effect. I am totally convinced that one does not have to be a genius in interpretation to find in the first words of the song, an undeniable truth, the useless and unjustifiable of an armed confrontation.

Also noteworthy is the prominent presence of Ethos, a presence found in the 20th paragraph, which says: "They say we must fight to maintain our freedom," and continues by saying, "But God knows there has to be a better way." It is clearly seen how Christian values and therefore principles related to ethics, morals and virtuous are brilliantly introduced and with that use, Starr not only captured the attention of all believers, but also

of all those who believe in elemental principles of modern civilization, certainly a strategic apotheosis.

Third, last but not least in transcendence, the presence of Pathos is more than evident and I think it would be immeasurably unfair if one or a few lyrics of the song were used, with the sole desire to exemplify the words and phrases used to grasp and to stimulate the sensitivity of the

supporters of the ideology of protest and that was carved and impregnated in this emblematic and everlasting song

And despite the fact that the whole song is a true hymn to freedom in general, I feel the duty to mention some lyrics where it is superfluous to explain what Starr expressed through his masterpiece:

War means tears in thousands of mothers' eyes / When their sons go out to fight and lose their lives "

- "(War), It ain't nothing but a heartbreaker / (War), Friend only to the undertaker"

- "War can't give life it can only take it away" and "Peace, love and understanding / Tell me, is there no place for them today?"

"(War) good God y'all / (What is it good for?) Absolutely nothing, say it, say it, say it / (War, what is it good for?) Absolutely nothing.

Obviously these lyrics show how Starr's use of pathos to influence his audience is a way to show the implications of war.

The Vietnam War was met by heavy public resistance by the general public as it progressed and as atrocities were uncovered. As new information was reported about the massacres in Vietnam in 1969, public opinion sharply turned against the war. Edwin Starr's release of "War" in June of 1970 reflected the growing negative feelings of the public. He articulated the fears of a growing number of Americans in his song, using rhetoric that is understood by all; the rhetoric of consensus. Starr protests, "War means tears to thousands of mother's eyes, when their sons gone to fight and lose their lives". A draft was instituted during the Vietnam War. Very few young men were safe from the draft lottery. The terror and anger of mothers sending their sons off to war was indeed universal. By appealing to this universal feeling, this common denominator, Starr not only articulates the feelings of the public, but also puts himself in a position to encourage others to join the cause

He punctuates the song with screams that might remind some people of a Baptist minister. He sounds upset about the idea of war. The authenticity of Starr's delivery makes "War" a classic. The delivery and performance aspects of the "War" also serve to highlight He's message. The beat and rhythm of the song articulate the anger of the public towards the destructive war.

"War" is characterized by its heavy drum and bass rhythms. This song encompassed an amalgamation of basic human emotions such as pain and love through not very far-fetched lyrics.

The historical and social context could not have been more conducive to the appearance of a song, with an extremely direct, realistic and of course also very persuasive message, such as WAR, which was masterfully interpreted by Edwin Starr.

During the last years of the decade of the 60's, a convulsed atmosphere was perceived internationally, by the more than controversial ideas imparted by the Cold War. And it is in this context that the United States makes its appearance, as a "champion of global justice" and begins its participation in a warlike confrontation, which many of us would come to know through history, such as the sadly celebrated War of Vietnam and I think that the sadly celebrated, is a more than appropriate expression since the simple fact of losing thousands of lives in a confrontation that could have been avoided, could not be classified in any other way.

And during all that intercontinental upheaval, that songs like WAR had to serve as social tools to raise a voice of protest, as it is well mentioned in a fragment of the eighth paragraph: "Oh, the war, has destroyed the dreams of many young men
He made him disabled, bitter, and mean. "

To conclude, I think that, and above all, based on historical facts and records, that not only the Vietnam War, or any other armed confrontation, would have inevitably generated the appearance of forms of expression in protest. Mechanisms of manifestation of wills and obviously also the manifestation of artistic expressions, such as writing or as in this particular case: music.

That's why songs such as: WAR by Edwin Starr (1970), "Blowin 'in the Wind" by Bob Dylan (1963) and "It Better End Soon", Chicago (1970), are just a few that appeared to help to consolidate the exercise of one of the most basic rights, that of free expression, and therefore helped to express the disagreement of millions of people towards a brutal, irrational but above all totally unjustifiable armed conflict.

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WAR

War, huh, yeah
What is it good for?
Absolutely nothing
Ah, ha, ha, ha
War, huh, yeah
What is it good for?
Absolutely nothing
Sing it again, y'all
War, huh
(Huh, look out)
What is it good for?
Absolutely nothing
Listen to me
Oh, war I despise
'Cause it means destruction
Of innocent lives
War means tears
To thousands of mothers' eyes
When their sons go out to fight
And lose their lives
I said, war, huh
(Good God y'all)
What is it good for?
Absolutely nothing
Just say it again
War, huh
(Woh, woh woh Lord)
What is it good for?
Absolutely nothing
Listen to me
War, it ain't nothin' but a heartbreaker
War, friend only to the undertaker
Ah, war is an enemy
To all mankind
The thought of war blows my mind
War has caused unrest
Within the younger generation
Induction, then destruction
Who wants to die?
Ahh, war, huh
(Good God, y'all)
What is it good for?

Absolutely nothing
Say it, say it, say it
War, huh
(Ah ha yeah, huh)
What is it good for?
Absolutely nothing
Listen to me
War, it ain't nothin' but a heartbreaker
War, it got one friend, that's the undertaker
Ah, war has shattered
Many a young man's dreams
Made him disabled, bitter and mean
Life is much too short and precious
To spend fighting wars each day
War can't give life
It can only take it away
Ahh, war, huh
(Good God y'all)
What is it good for?
Absolutely nothing
Say it again
War, huh
(Woh woh woh, Lord)
What is it good for?
Absolutely nothing
Listen to me
War, it ain't nothin' but a heartbreaker
War, friend only to the undertaker, oh
Peace, love
And understanding, tell me
Is there no place for them today?
They say we must fight
To keep our freedom
But Lord knows
There's gotta be a better way
Ahh, war huh
(Good God y'all)
What is it good for?
You tell me
Say it, say it, say it
War, huh
(Good God y'all)
What is it good for?
Stand up and shout it, nothing
War, huh